

TESTIMONY

SB 169 – AAC the Labor Department’s Apprenticeship Web Site based on a Program Review & Investigations Committee Study.

SB 215 – AAC Apprenticeship Expansion Based on a Program Review & Investigations Committee Study

Submitted by: Joyce A. Wojtas, Lobbyist – Mechanical Contractors Association of CT(MCAC)

On behalf of the MCAC, I would like to thank the PR&I Committee for their thorough review of Apprenticeship Training Programs.

SB 169 concerning DOL’s Web Site: While we agree that updating the web site and simplification of the process for prospective apprentices and employers is an admirable goal and would benefit all involved, the costs associated with the requirements of this bill may be prohibitive at this time in the state’s budget reduction efforts.

However, speaking in regards to the occupational licensing trades defined in C.G.S. Chapter 393, we do believe if any updating of the web site is undertaken, it should include, with statutory references, the violations and penalties that could have an impact on both the employer and the apprentice throughout the training period.

SB 215 concerning Apprenticeship Expansion - Again, this bill includes many admirable goals that would be of benefit to the unemployed and/or the underemployed, but should also include outreach to high school students who are only encouraged to attend another four years of college in order to function in our society. They should be made aware of the jobs that will be available to them after completion of an appropriate apprenticeship program and should be given information on exactly what is available to them at an early age. These programs not only need willing employers, they need willing apprentices.

Budget constraints will have an impact on the requirements in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these two significant bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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